

PASSION PLAYERS PREPARE.

Over three centuries ago, the Black Death struck the Bavarian village of Oberammergau. When the plague was past, the villagers took an oath that they and their descendants would perform the Passion of Christ every ten years for ever - and they still keep that vow. Now the village is agog with plans for the 1960 presentation. Over 700 actors, musicians and singers have to be chosen. Tradition forbids make-up - so the men grow beards in keeping with their roles.

Sculptor George Lang will produce the play - and his leading actors are already chosen. Christ will be portrayed by Anton Friesinger, an innkeeper in everyday life; to play Mary, typist Irngard Dengg has been selected, while John is another sculptor and woodcarver, Werner Bierling.

Mary Magdalene is also a typist - Ameliesse Mayr. In Oberammergau, there are many sculptors - so yet another takes the difficult part of Judas Iscariot, while woodcarving colleague, Hans Mayer, plays Peter. A fine cast for a play that long ago captured the imagination of the world.